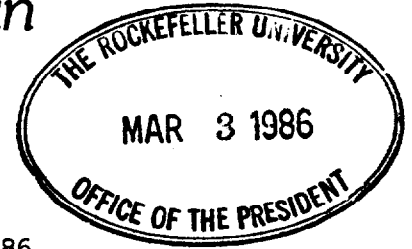


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February 26, 1986

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
66th Street and York Avenue
New York City, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

As you will see below, I am writing to submit a paper to the Proceedings of the National Academy. This paper has had an interesting life history but before I review that with you let me just note some of the reasons that I write to you for submission.

We have never actually met, except I think for a moment at the 25th anniversary celebration at Rockefeller. I am a graduate of Rockefeller having been student of Norton Zinder and therefore in some odd way I feel that I am sort of an intellectual grandson of yours. Our lives have one other association, and that is that I am also a graduate of Stuyvesant High School. I mention these two things not in the hope of getting special favor, but perhaps in justifying asking you to take some time out of your busy schedule to see that this paper, entitled "The Continuum Model and c-myc Regulation," gets a fair and proper hearing.

I must tell you that this paper was sent to Dr. Rollin Hotchkiss for submission. That was about six months ago and the plain fact is that Rollin, recently retired to Lenox, Massachusetts, could not get a review of the paper. I admit it is an unusual paper. It is not an experimental paper. It explains a lot of old data. It "retrodicts" a lot of prior experiments. I believe the idea is sound, important, and deserves an audience. But the ideas in this paper raise a lot of passion. A lot of people have worked on experiments which this paper says are essentially worthless. During the reviewing period, which Rollin carried out diligently, we discussed different reviewers and possible avenues of review. He sent it to people who would be antagonistic and people who had no vested interest. Basically he could not get a review. He could not reject it, but again he could not accept it. We left it so that I had his permission to submit it to another member of the Academy. For this reason I am writing to you. (If you wish to discuss this matter with Rollin, you can get him at his home in Lenox, at 413-637-1093.)

But before that the paper was sent to two other places. One was Science where it was not reviewed at all as is their editorial policy for many papers. It was also sent to Cell where it was "reviewed" but I enclose the review and the rebuttal. The review from Cell did not answer any of the points in the paper, and the rebuttal should be read in the light of this review. In any event, Cell, with its editorial policy, did not see fit to have a second round of reviews because this paper, handled as a "review article" was rejected for editorial, and not for scientific reasons.

I therefore write to you for a resolution of this matter. I know that you may be busy and may not be able to work on a paper like this which is generally outside of your field, and if this is so I will understand. But if you see fit to undertake this submission, I would hope that you will be able to elicit comments and criticism or praise which I feel that this paper does deserve.

Again I note that it is an unusual paper. I note specifically in the paper that it is an educational effort. I could have chosen many other bits of published work for analysis, but the papers analyzed here seemed quite adequate. The main point is that I wish these ideas placed in such a publication medium that people cannot ignore the criticisms but must take a stand for or against. Right now the field goes on without acknowledging any of these criticisms. I am confident that at Rockefeller you will find many people who would be able to give this paper the attention it needs and deserves.

Please feel free to show potential reviews this letter and the enclosed material from Cell so that they may see what the argument is all about. If any reviewers need any clarification I would be most happy to oblige. In fact the most important aspect of this paper is that it is completely clear and understandable and unambiguous.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter. I do appreciate your demanding schedule, but if you could help me in this matter I would be most grateful.

Yours, hoping that the spirit of
John D and Peter S makes this
paper have smashing reviews,


Stephen Cooper

P. S. Regards to all my friends at Rockefeller.

PhD (1963)
Zimmer